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CLASSIFICATION

APR 27 1954

TO : LINCOLN

DATE:

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala [ ] INFO: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: GENERAL- Operational

SPECIFIC- Current Views of Alfonso ~~SOLORZANO~~

Attached for Lincoln and Headquarters is one copy  
of a memorandum prepared by Mr. William L. KRIEG,  
Counselor of Embassy, concerning the above subject  
and dated 23 April 1954.

[ ] Clara M. Heagey

26 April 1954

CMH

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23 APR 1954

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM

April 23, 1954

FROM: William L. Krieg

SUBJECT: Current Views of Alfonso Solorzano.

[ ] called this afternoon and said that he had been at a party last night with Alfonso Solorzano, Manager of the Guatemalan Institute of Social Security (IGSS), and that Solorzano had spoken rather freely of his views on various matters.

[ ] said that Solorzano was discouraged about the prospects of the Arbenz Administration. He seemed to feel that an upset was likely, and [ ] was of the opinion that Solorzano would probably leave the country, ahead of time if possible, rather than stay and fight. Despite this pessimism, however, Solorzano said that he was considering resigning as Manager of the IGSS because it was ruining him politically and that he would possibly run for Congress at the next election.

[ ] had asked Solorzano why Carlos Manuel PELLEGER had attacked him in his recent speech at Quetzaltenango. Solorzano had replied that their enmity dates from the time when he was Consul General in Paris and Pellecer was Chargé d'Affaires. At that time the husband of the present Mrs. Pellecer had come to the Consulate and asked to have a document drawn up to indicate that the expected child of his wife was not his but Pellecer's. Pellecer had objected to having this document drawn up, but Solorzano had done so anyway.

Solorzano continued his previous line of expressing a rather low opinion of the Communist leaders in Guatemala, particularly Pellecer. It was evident that he regarded Fortuny as something of a "young upstart." Solorzano had said that the Government was very upset because of a new plot which had just been discovered. He did not give any details.

Turning to the labor movement, Solorzano said that the labor leaders were concerned lest the Archbishop back a Rerum Novarum labor movement in opposition to the CGTG. He remarked that the CGTG now has a monopoly over labor in this country and said that "other democrats" like himself should have been allowed to get in on it. He thought that a Catholic labor movement would be very successful, but when another guest expressed the hope that it would be, Solorzano said he was opposed to splitting the labor group.

WLK:ica